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FOREIGN BROADCAST INFORMATION SERVICE

Libyan Coverage

A recent reception survey at the FBIS remote monitoring site in southwestern Cyprus, indicated that some improvement in reception of Tripoli radio can be expected. A microwave link with the bureau in Nicosia is to be installed later this spring for this purpose. During the survey, which was conducted during the period of maximum audibility for the location, the stronger Libyan mediumwave transmitters were heard with fair reception, although these are not always devoted to domestic broadcasting. Reception of Libyan shortwave broadcasts was at least fair whenever they were on the air. Reception of the site's other main target, Athens, was fair/good throughout.

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Sino-Soviet Watch

As part of FBIS' efforts in recent years to improve coverage of the regional languages of Central Asia, FBIS has now added Tashkent Uighur broadcasts to its coverage. The FBIS post in Islamabad records these broadcasts and forwards them to the Gulf Bureau in Bahrain for processing. The main interest is in the Soviets' possible use of these broadcasts to foment discontent among minority nationalities in China's Central Asian regions, particularly in the sensitive border region of Xinjiang.

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MTDAS Automation Project

Work on the text processing subsystem of MIDAS, the automated system that will eventually produce the DAILY REPORT and FBIS Wire Service, is virtually finished, thus permitting editorial training to proceed. The first 1-week training course was held at the contractor's facility in Lanham, Maryland, 22-26 February. Three more sessions of the course, which is designed to train six DAILY REPORT and Wire editors at each sitting, are planned before MIDAS becomes operational in June. Work on the communications processing subsystem is progressing well, and training of the system/communications operators is scheduled to begin at the end of March.

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Nicaraguan Statements

The FBIS Analysis Group published a Special Memorandum on Nicaraguan leaders' statements of support for Central American insurgencies. The paper was prepared at the request of the Director, ALA/DDI.

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Support for INF Negotiators

The Analysis Group reviewed Soviet media treatment of the Pershing I missile as input to a paper prepared by the Arms Control Intelligence Staff for the U.S. negotiators at the Geneva talks on intermediate range nuclear forces.

Management Travel

Deputy Director of FBIS, departed 5 March for a 25X1 2-week tour of the FBIS Far East bureaus.

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